

REMARKS

With the addition of new claim 21 and the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 12 and 13, claims 14 to 21 are pending in the present application, since claims 1 to 10 were previously canceled.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

As regards the rejection of claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, claim 20 has been amended herein without prejudice to obviate the present rejection. Withdrawal of this indefiniteness rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14 to 17 are allowable. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 14, from which claims 15 to 17 ultimately depend, has been rewritten herein in independent form and to include all of the features of its base claim and any intervening claim. The Examiner will further note that claim 18 has been amended so that claims 18 and 19 ultimately depends from claim 14. The Examiner will further note that claim 20 has been amended herein without prejudice to include subject matter analogous to that of claim 14. Accordingly, claims 14 to 20 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled herein without prejudice, so as to obviate the remaining rejections.

New claim 21 has been added herein. Claim 21 does not add new matter and is supported by the present application, including the specification, as originally filed. Claim 21 includes subject matter analogous to that of claim 14 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 14.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims 14 to 21 are allowable.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of pending claims 14 to 21 are allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections and objections be withdrawn. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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